



PAO Update

TODAY'S TOP STORIES

Polling Data: Low Job Approval for Hagel

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe2d107075620178731676&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(Defense News) While Hagel received strong support from self-identified Democrats with 82.6 percent approving, a combination of Republican disapproval at 62.4 percent and those working in industry disapproving at 50.9 percent pushed Hagel into negative territory. Those in the military gave Hagel positive marks at 44/36 percent approval/disapproval, and Defense Department civilians were evenly split at 38.2 percent.

Soldier Pay: How Much is Enough?

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(ARMY Magazine) The 1 percent basic pay raise proposed for soldiers in the 2015 federal budget serves as an example of the bottom line for calculating military salaries. For all the studies of making military pay competitive with private-sector wages and comparable with what soldiers could earn if they weren't in uniform, the decision about the raise often comes down to a gut call in response to a simple question: How low can you go?

AFRICOM looks to outsource search and rescue

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(IHS Jane's 360) A request for information (Rfi) released on 24 April indicates that US military personnel will be deployed to a number of African countries where they were not previously known to operate.

U.S., Philippines Sign Defense Pact Amid China Tensions

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(Bloomberg) The Philippines and the U.S. signed an agreement today that will boost the American troop presence in the Southeast Asian nation, as it seeks to counter China's assertiveness over territorial disputes.

ASIA-PACIFIC

U.S. Considers Delaying South Korea Wartime Command Handover

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(Bloomberg) The U.S. said it will consider delaying the handover to South Korea of wartime command of that country's forces, citing the growing threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea.



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CONGRESS

Bills call for recruits to be tested for mental health

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(Military Times) Two congressional bills calling for mental health screening of all military recruits are drawing more attention following the April 2 shootings at Fort Hood, Texas.

Levin: Send Body Armor, Fuel to Ukraine; Sanction Russian Banks

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(Defense News) The United States should step up its efforts to assist Ukraine's military in its standoff with Russia by sending body armor and fuel to Kiev's forces, says a key US Senate Democrat.

State Guard Generals Take Fight To Senate, Push Freeze To Planned Cuts

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(Breaking Defense) After convening in Washington for briefings on the Army budget and how to implement it, the state-level commanders of the National Guard have instead launched a new offensive against the Army plan to cut their forces, flooding Capitol Hill with letters and PowerPoint slides. Their immediate goal: Get the Senate to introduce counterpart legislation to a House bill that would freeze all changes to the Guard until an independent commission studied the issue. Step two: Get that language in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

DoD report: Many troops who commit suicide have seen doctor

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(Military Times) Nearly two-thirds of active-duty troops who died by suicide in 2012 were seen by a doctor within three months before taking their own lives, and one-third told someone of their plans, according to a Defense Department report released Friday.

Report: Pentagon to destroy \$1B in ammunition

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(USA Today) The Pentagon plans to destroy more than \$1 billion worth of ammunition although some of those bullets and missiles could still be used by troops, according to the Pentagon and congressional sources.

Coming Soon: Pentagon's Multi-Billion Dollar Health Records Contract

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(Nextgov) Sometime in the coming months, the Defense Department will bid out its Healthcare Management Systems Modernization contract, an effort so large in monetary size and game-changing scope that it could significantly influence the future of health care in the United States.

New rule: Recruits may have to buy U.S.-made athletic shoes

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(Military Times) The Defense Department issued a new rule Friday that could prohibit boot-camp recruits from using their one-time cash allowance for athletic footwear to buy foreign-made shoes.

ARMY

US Army Breaking Out the Big New Guns

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe26107075620178731279&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(Defense News) US Army Brig. Gen. David Bassett visited this remote desert artillery range to see something that has become increasingly rare in Army acquisition circles: a major developmental program that looks like it's going to work.

Fort Benning soldier dies after road march

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(Ledger-Enquirer; Columbus, Ga.) A Fort Benning soldier died early today at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus after he was stricken during a ruck march on the post, authorities said.

VETERANS

Waits for Phoenix VA Appointments Drove Sick to ER, Ex-Employee Says

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe2a107075620178721678&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(Wall Street Journal) Waits to see primary-care doctors in the Phoenix VA Health Care System were lengthy enough to force some patients to seek help at the emergency room, according to a former employee whose allegations are part of an investigation by the VA's inspector general.

Japanese-American member of Merrill's Marauders dies at 100

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(Military Times) Roy Matsumoto, who served with the famed Merrill's Marauders during World War II and was later inducted into the "Ranger Hall of Fame," has died at 100, according to his daughter Karen.

Citizen-soldiers took divergent paths after Iraq tour that held more trauma than expected

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(Wisconsin State Journal; Madison) Five years ago, thousands of Wisconsin factory workers, farmers, students, hamburger cooks and accountants were far from their homes, crossing the desert frontier between Kuwait and Iraq on a historic mission to help bring an unpopular war to a close.

84-year-old beats off home invader

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe2b107075620178721776&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(The Courier Tribune; Asheboro, N.C.) Bonnie said Neil, a retired long-distance truck driver and former U.S. Air Force MP, came running into the room and never hesitated.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan forces prepare to take lead

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(San Diego Union-Tribune) Across Afghanistan, monumental transitions like the one involving Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Ziegler are taking place. Ziegler handed over the key to the front gate of his military base at Delaram this month, leaving Afghan national troops solely in charge of securing Nimruz province. Then he and his team of about 100 Marine advisers and supporting personnel — the last coalition forces in Nimruz — withdrew.

As war winds down, Afghan Taliban targets foreign civilian workers

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(Christian Science Monitor) As the withdrawal of US-led NATO troops in Afghanistan approaches, the Taliban and those they've recruited are targeting foreign civilian workers like the three American doctors killed this week.

IRAQ

Fledgling Iraqi Military Is Outmatched on Battlefield

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(Wall Street Journal) More than two years after the last U.S. troops left Iraq, as the country prepares for its first post-occupation parliamentary elections on Wednesday, its demoralized, underequipped military is losing the fight against Islamist militants, who are better armed, better trained, and better motivated, according to Iraqi and American generals, politicians and analysts.

MIDDLE EAST

Iran to target decoy US aircraft carrier in drills

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(Associated Press) An Iranian newspaper is reporting that the country's military plans to target a mock-up American aircraft carrier during upcoming war games.



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Drone War Doesn't Stop Al-Qaeda's 'Obsession' With Striking U.S.

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(Time) Experts say Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula remains focused on striking the United States, and targeted attacks by American drones and Yemeni commandos have so far failed to weaken the dangerous group.

Egypt court sentences 683 people to death

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe24107075620178721379&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(Al Jazeera) An Egyptian court has sentenced 683 people, including Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie to death.

EUROPE

EUCOM dismisses reports of secret U.S. base in Crimea

<<http://cl.exct.net/?ju=fe25107075620178721c77&ls=fdd015717661017d7615717260&m=ff011577756600&l=fe8b13707d6c007d7c&s=fd215777d62037f75117571&jb=ffcf14&t=>>

(Military Times) Military officials in Europe are pushing back against reports the U.S. was conducting humanitarian assistance projects in Crimea as a ruse to establish a military base in the region.

Obama Says More Sanctions Against Russia Are Coming

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(New York Times) President Obama, declaring that Russia was continuing to bully and threaten Ukraine, said here on Monday that the United States would impose additional sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, as well as freezing some exports of military technology.

Pentagon: Hagel's Russian counterpart won't return his calls

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(Fox News) Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel cannot get his Russian counterpart to take his calls, the Pentagon said Friday -- amid a new report that the Kremlin has suspended high-level talks with U.S. officials.

Today in History:

In 1789, there was a mutiny on the HMS Bounty as rebelling crew members of the British ship led by Fletcher Christian set the captain, William Bligh, and 18 sailors adrift in a launch in the South Pacific. (Bligh and most of the men with him managed to reach Timor in 47 days.)

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.



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In 1817, the United States and Britain signed the Rush-Bagot Treaty, which limited the number of naval vessels allowed in the Great Lakes.

In 1937, former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was born in the village of al-Oja near the desert town of Tikrit (he was executed in December 2006).

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali refused to be inducted into the Army, the same day U.S. Army Gen. William C. Westmoreland told Congress the U.S. "would prevail in Vietnam."

In 1974, a federal jury in New York acquitted former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans of charges in connection with a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign from financier Robert Vesco.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'-loh) to Honolulu.

In 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had betrayed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 1996, a man armed with a semiautomatic rifle went on a rampage on the Australian island of Tasmania, killing 35 people; Martin Bryant was captured by police after a 12-hour standoff at a guest cottage. (Bryant is serving a life prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: First photos from the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal were shown on CBS' "60 Minutes II."

Five years ago: Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius won Senate confirmation, 65-31, as health and human services secretary.

Today's Birthdays: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Harper Lee is 88...come on – seriously... TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD... did I really have to remind you of that? Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 84

**First published in July 1960, "Mockingbird" has sold more than 30 million copies worldwide and still sells more than 1 million copies a year, according to HarperCollins. It was adapted into a 1962 movie of



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the same name that featured an Oscar-winning performance by Gregory Peck as Finch, the courageous Alabama attorney who defends a black man against charges that he raped a white woman.

Local News:

20th CBRNE Command Face Book Page

www.facebook.com/20thSupportCommandCBRNE
<<http://www.facebook.com/20thSupportCommandCBRNE>>

Former Johns Hopkins professor eyes Afghan presidency
<<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-afghanistan-president-20140419,0.2598598.story>>

Other National news of interest:

Palin: If I were president, 'Waterboarding is how we'd baptize terrorists'
<<http://news.yahoo.com/palin-waterboarding-nra-speech-205827272.html>>

At least 17 killed as tornadoes rip through Arkansas, Oklahoma <<http://news.yahoo.com/least-two-people-killed-tornadoes-central-southern-u-015033093--sector.html>>

Holocaust survivors recall most vivid memories <<http://news.yahoo.com/holocaust-survivors-recall-most-vivid-memories-103737388.html>>

UPDATE: Outrage After LA CLIPPERS Owner Caught in Racist Rant...
<<http://www.tmz.com/2014/04/26/donald-sterling-clippers-owner-black-people-racist-audio-magic-johnson/%20>>

Magic Johnson: 'He should sell team'... <<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/04/26/exclusive-magic-johnson-suggests-donald-sterling-should-sell-clippers-after-alleged-racist-remarks/>>

Al Qaeda chief urges kidnappings of Americans... <<http://news.yahoo.com/qaeda-chief-urges-kidnappings-americans-184313136.html; ylt=AwrBEijcslpTtXwAOGTQtDMD>>

Pentagon Beefs Up Military Options for China...
<http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CDAQqQIwAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304163604579528122105809740.html&ei=CtddU8ivF4uQyATf_YKgDQ&usg=AFQjCNGBOD-wKV32acqRRicCQOtQsdqdz&bvm=bv.65397613,d.aWw>



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Pro-Russia rebels parade hostages in Ukraine... <<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1e105964-ce01-11e3-bc28-00144feabdc0.html>>

Jets probe airspace again as tensions rise... <<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Latest-News-Wires/2014/0426/Russian-jets-probe-Ukraine-airspace-again-as-tensions-rise>>

"I don't make this stuff up" –

Two Paris cops charged with raping Canadian tourist... <<http://news.yahoo.com/two-paris-cops-charged-raping-canadian-tourist-172903151.html>; ylt=AwrTWVU0Q11TxB0AlfHQtDMD>

University bans phrases 'man up' and 'that's so gay' as 'offensive'... <<http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/17212/>>

Tennessee policeman fired after photos show him choking student... <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2614386/Tennessee-police-photographed-choking-unresisting-college-student-passes-out.html>>

NY bill would bar condoms as proof of prostitution <<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/04/27/new-york-could-become-1st-state-to-stop-police-from-using-condoms-as-evidence/?intcmp=latestnews>>

Scientist Predicts Human Microchip Implants WILL NOT BE OPTIONAL... <http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/the-mark-scientist-claims-human-microchip-implants-will-become-not-optional_04242014>

Technician falsified nearly 1,300 mammogram reports <<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/04/27/former-georgia-technician-falsified-nearly-1300-mammogram-reports/?intcmp=latestnews>>

Scientists create take-home fertility test -- for men... <http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOME_FERTILITY_TEST?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-04-26-14-55-28>

Quote of the Day:



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“Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can’t lose. And it’s an unreliable guide to the future.” – Bill Gates

Word of the Day:

· belfry

\BEL-free\

noun

1: a bell tower; especially : one surmounting or attached to another structure

2: a room or framework for enclosing a bell

3: head